(b) FAO has estimated paddy production in Indonesia to have risen from 35.3 million tonnes in 1983 to 38 million tonnes in 1984, and is expected around 38 million tonnes in 1985.

(c) and (d) Export of only Basmati Rice is allowed from India. Decline in the rice requirement of Indonesia is not likely to affect India's export of Basmati Rice.

Rise in the Prices of Basmati Rice

@2232. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of Basmati rice have risen quite substantially during the last several months in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the total quantity of basmati rice exported to various countries during the years 1984 and upto 31st October, 1985; and

(d) whether Government propose to ban the export of basmati rice from the country so that it is available to the consumers at reasonable rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) There has been some increase in the domestic prices of Basmati rice in the recent past. The prices are largely governed by the market forces.

(c) The quantum of export of Basmati rice during 1984-85 and April—August 1985 has been estimated at 2,41,785 tonnes and 1,40,675 tonnes respectively. Export figures for the months of September, 1985 and October, 1985 are not available.

(b) Basmati rice is not an item of mass consumption and is not covered by the Public Distribution System. There is no proposal to ban the export of basmati rice.

Drug Manufacturing Units in Nigeria

@@2233. SHRI ADINARAYAN REDDY: will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Indian drug manufacturers are going to set up drug manufacturing units in Nigeria;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that some private companies have got the clearance from the Government of India for the above purpose; and

(c) if so, what would be the cost and capacity of the project and what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The costs of different projects range between 7.81 lakhs to 4914 lakhs and the capacities are varying according to the products and the beoverall project costs.

Illegal dealing in Foreign Exchange near Delhi Airport

@@@2234. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the Press report appearing in the 'Statesman' of 22nd October, 1985 regarding large scale illegal dealings in foreign exchange in Nangal Dairy Village near Delhi airport; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

@Previously Unstarred Question 1391 transferred from the 29th November 1985.

@@Previously Unstarred Question 1446 transferred from the 2nd December, 1985.

@@@Previously Unstarred Question 1940 transferred from the 5th December, 1985.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current year, the Enforcement Directorate has booked some cases of illegal sale and purchase of foreign exchange in and around Delhi airport. The available information does not, however, indicate any large scale illegal dealings in foreign exchange at the airport or in village Nangal Dairy as reported in the newspaper. However, vigilance at the airport has been tightened. Surprise checks are carried out from time to time and the persons apprehended are appropriately dealt with in accordance with the law.

Pigmy Deposit Collectors in Banks

2235. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to regularise the service conditions of daily Pigmy Deposit Collectors engaged by various banks in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) As pigmy deposit collectors are only agents for the purpose of collecting pigmy deposits, they only get their commission as per the contract between them and the bank concerned. Service conditions are only for the bank employees and as pigmy deposit collectors are not bank employees, there is no question of regularising their service conditions.

2236. [*Transferred to the 20th December*, 1986.]

Increase in house building advance for employees of Nationalised Banks

2237. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that employees of the nationalised banks Associations have approached the authorities to increase the house building advance in view of the increase in prices of building material as has been done in the case of Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

News-item captioned 'Rs. 73 Crore Evasion by Fabric Processors"

2238. SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Economic Times' of the 5th October, 1985 captioned "Rs. 73 crore evasion by fabric processors";

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) how these manufacturers could hoodwink the Central Excise Officers over the years; and

(d) whether any Government officials were also involved in the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On investigation conducted by Central Excise Officers of Pune Collectorate, it has appeared that some of the cotton fabric processors of Ichalkaranji, Jaisingpur and Sangli areas of Maharashtra, have been wrongly availing of the Central Excise duty exemption under the existing Notifications, to which they are not actually entitled. Accordingly, notices have been issued to such processors calling upon them to show cause as to why the amount totalling